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Approach to Problem.

Two methods of approach to the study suggested themselves. 121
The first, an intensive method, was to select an area and to take records from every compound within it and to survey all the land farmed by these compounds. The second, an eclectic method, was to select centres in different parts of the district and at each centre to select a number of compounds for detailed record. There were advantages in favour of each method but it was considered that, if care was taken in the selection of compounds, the second had more to recommend it for our purpose; this was the method adopted.

Selection of Centres for Record.

After discussion with the Political Officer for the district, centres of operation were considered, bearing in mind typicalness, accessibility, and the amenability of the Chief. The last is important for no matter how desirable a place might be for other reasons, no useful work could be done if the Chief was antagonistic. The centres finally selected were decided upon after touring the district. In all, records have been taken at ten centres distributed as follows:—

In Zuarungu Area in 1932 at Bongo, Nangodi, Sambruno, Tongo and Zuarungu.

In Navrongo Area in 1934 at Chana, Kologo, Wiaga, and in 1935 at Navrongo.

In Kusasi Area at Zebilla in 1936.

Selection of Compounds for Record.

At each centre a large number of compounds was visited with 124
a representative of the Chief, and from amongst these, six compounds were selected for record. Care was taken to choose compounds as typical of the district as possible. Thus the compounds of Chiefs, headmen, and strangers, were avoided if possible, and also the compounds of pensioners. Care had to be taken not to record the compound of a man pushed forward by the Chief simply to humour the white man. As with the Chief, so with the farmer, he must be amenable to our intrusion. The compounds we selected were probably rather above the average, and at Tongo we unwittingly included the farms of three headmen. At this early

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124 stage in the survey, time spent in reconnaissance is certainly not wasted, for once records are started in a compound they must go on or be discarded; there is no time to change later.

Details Collected.

126 A junior officer of the Department was stationed at each centre and generally received the hospitality of the Chief. He was therefore *in touch with the centre of local affairs.* The number of compounds which can be recorded by one man depends upon many factors, but keeping strict accuracy in mind, rather than the maximum number of records possible, six was found to be a reasonable number for a man previously unacquainted with the work. Each compound was given a serial number, which was entered into a record book together with the place name, the name of the section and the name of the compound owner; these details were entered as a heading. Beneath this the following details were entered:—

Compound.

a. Number of men farming in the compound (including boys big enough to farm).

b. Details of persons supported by the produce from the farm.

c. Livestock owned by the compound.

d. Notes upon the food supply from the previous season.

e. Remarks. (Any details affecting the economics of the household, *i.e.*, trades followed, like smithing; money from sale of livestock; and so on.)

Farms.

f. Total area farmed (entered after survey).

g. Area, and a brief description of each farm.

h. Area of land manured in the current season (after survey).

i. Mean yields of major crops in current season (after harvest).